

**To:** Max Dodson [Personal Email/Ex. 6]  
**From:** Weston Wilson  
**Sent:** Mon 8/17/2015 8:42:58 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Alert: Help Rivers Impacted by Gold King Mine Spill

Max, faith in whom?

the anti-govt crowd lead by Butler and the stakeholders were the king makers behind making the situation worse, by supporting the State's approval of bulkheads in lieu of treatment at Sunnyside, which resulted in R8's Griswald's team uncorking the resulting higher pressure. why didn't you trump the anti-government crowd and compel these Animas watershed mines to an NPL listing?

was it a lack of ammo or chutzpa?

Wes Wilson

On Aug 17, 2015, at 12:55 PM, Max Dodson wrote:

The EPA Region 8 folks are going to fix it just like Eagle Minr, Summitville, Silver Bow/Clark Fork and fifty other sites. Believe it or not, EPA and Cercla are the locals'only option unless the anti government crowd want more blowouts. Good Sam cannot replace the importance of long term active treatment. Gene, NEWS ALERT, don't drink the water just yet. By the way, my prediction is this little issue is going to take a lot of time to get resolved. Keep the faith troops.

On Saturday, August 15, 2015, [Personal Email/Ex. 6] wrote:

Thanks Mark, especially for your efforts on the science end and to educate folks on both the specific situation regarding the Gold King mine spill as well as the broader issues associated with abandoned mines. I still hope that you and/or others would write an "Op Ed" piece to the Denver Post on this subject.

As far as "a beer", I think Mike would be more than willing to provide whatever (definitely more than "a beer") beverages you would like. Perhaps he can even write it off as a "business expense" for his new (?) company.

Just as a matter of clarification, personally I have no particular interest in making EPA "look good". That said, I think EPA should get credit for the many good things the agency has done but also held accountable for some of the "bad" (perhaps in this specific case not providing sufficient over-sight regarding the on-site contractor). Basically, I would like accountability (good or bad) for all involved.

Gene

---

**From:** "Mark Williams" [Personal Email/Ex. 6]

# Personal Email/Ex. 6

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 11:40:55 AM

Subject: Re: Alert: Help Rivers Impacted by Gold King Mine Spill

Todd is now trying to sell his claim, which he stated on a recent radio show. Good news.

I've been quoted in numerous articles that the underlying problem is that the locals wouldn't accept superfund status. See this Christian Science Monitor article. In this article we focused on the hope that the spill will bring more resources to the problem: <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2015/0810/Animas-River-spill-How-Colorado-s-Gold-Medal-waters-turned-mustard>

In this article we talk about how the problem started with the closure of the Sunnyside Mine and that EPA predicted the problems with the Red and Bonita, Gold King, and Mogul adits: <http://www.popsci.com/secret-history-epas-animas-river-spill>

Definitely read this and pass it on. It makes the EPA look good.

Lots of other articles like these that show the EPA in a good light.

You guys owe me a beer.

Mark

On Fri, Aug 14, 2015 at 9:54 AM, Mike Wireman <Personal Email/Ex. 6> wrote:

Gene -thanks for the email to Audubon defending EPA. I have been informally advising the Emergency Response folks during the past few months re: the hydrologic assessment that needs to be done to support plugging of the Red and Bonita (draining adit a few hundred feet below the Gold King). If upper Cement Creek had been listed the Remedial program would have conducted an extensive remedial investigation to support appropriate remedial /mitigation measures. Without this listing -EPA has been at the mercy of Todd Hinnis (the somewhat anti-government owner of the Gold King) with respect to entering the collapsed portal of the GK. Hinnis is convinced that the "motherlode" still exists in the claims he owns associated with the GK -therefore he has constrained EPAs ability to open the GK and use as a monitoring location -which is critical. I really hope EPA has the backbone to list the site now.

mike

---

From: [Personal Email/Ex. 6]  
To: "mikeclaudia" <[Personal Email/Ex. 6]> "Paul Osborne"  
[Personal Email/Ex. 6] > "Mark Williams"  
[Personal Email/Ex. 6]  
Cc: "Wes Wilson" <[Personal Email/Ex. 6]> "homebythehills"  
[Personal Email/Ex. 6]  
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:50:39 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Alert: Help Rivers Impacted by Gold King Mine Spill

I'm a bit concerned that all the media attention on the recent mine spill focuses on EPA's recent action but does not mention what led to the build-up of the mine waste. I hope I did not do injustice to the facts in my comments to Audubon (see below)

This should not be viewed as a "blame game" but rather one of accountability and even more importantly how to address the problems in the future. One response to my e-mail was that I should write an "Op Ed" piece which I will NOT do as I don't have the first hand knowledge/history of what has transpired. Perhaps one/several of you could do so.

According to the media, several State AG's, including Colorado's, are considering suing EPA. Should that occur, I assume that the history would come out at that time. However, I don't think that is the best, or most appropriate, way to inform the public or the politicians.

By the way, shortly after retiring from EPA I was interesting in exploring if there was any interest in forming some sort of retired EPA group willing to way in on issues (not just our annual recreational get together). I recall inviting the Executive Director of a similar National Park Service group (they had been quite successful) to discuss his organization (I believe Max was there but don't recall others). Unfortunately this effort died when Bob DuPrey passed away. A group like I was envisioning could be very helpful in educating folks on the current spill issue as well as the broader issues surrounding abandoned mines in the State (as well as a multitude of other environmental issues).

Gene

---

From: [Personal Email/Ex. 6]

To: [aburk@audubon.org](mailto:aburk@audubon.org), "Alison Holloran" <[aholloran@audubon.org](mailto:aholloran@audubon.org)>  
Cc: "polly reetz" [Personal Email/Ex. 6] "Bob Stocker"  
<[bob@stockerphotos.com](mailto:bob@stockerphotos.com)>, "Nancy Stocker" <[nancy@prairiewildlife.net](mailto:nancy@prairiewildlife.net)>  
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:07:04 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Alert: Help Rivers Impacted by Gold King Mine Spill

Hi Abby,

While I was never involved in the mine drainage issues on the upper Animas, I know that there is a long a complicated history of dealing with the problems in that area. I am concerned that all the media focus appears to be on EPA's recent role (for which I think EPA should be held accountable). Unfortunately it seems that the critical roles played by others that led up to the build-up of the toxic water have largely been ignored.

It is my understanding that EPA staff recommended that the site (because of its magnitude and complexity) be managed under SUPERFUND. However, this was not done because of strong local opposition (EPA generally does not list sites under SUPERFUND if there is no local support to do so). SUPERFUND listing would have provided needed technical expertise and greater funding to address the problems.

It is also my understanding that EPA recommended against a "permanent plug" and suggested a drainable plug that would allow for monitoring and treatment of the mine water. The Colorado Water Quality Control Division (and perhaps also Mine Land Reclamation) was concerned about long term treatment costs and instead approved the "permanent plug".

It is my opinion that the local opposition to SUPERFUND listing and the State's approval of the so-called "permanent plug" greatly contributed to the build-up of the toxic water that was inadvertently released (again, I think EPA should have been much more cautious in the work of their on-site contractor, and should be held accountable for that action).

Addressing the problems on the Upper Animas will require a comprehensive, coordinated effort involving locals, the State, and EPA.

---

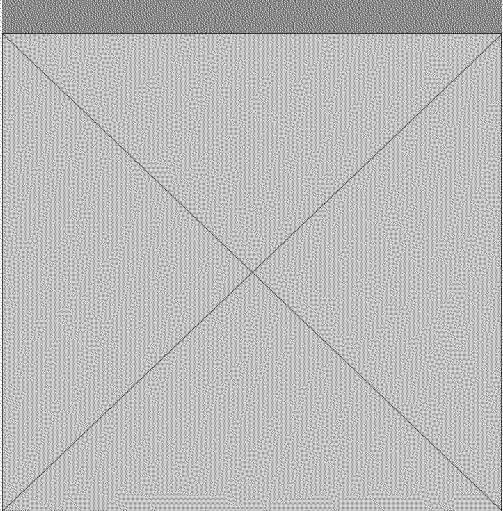
From: "David Yarnold, Audubon" <[audubonaction@audubon.org](mailto:audubonaction@audubon.org)>  
To: "Gene" <[Personal Email/Ex. 6]>  
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:12:02 AM

Subject: Alert: Help Rivers Impacted by Gold King Mine Spill

The long-term impacts of the Gold King Mine spill on birds and wildlife will take years to uncover. · Trouble viewing this email? Try our [web version](#).



## HELP RIVERS IMPACTED BY GOLD KING MINE SPILL



The long-term impacts of the Gold King Mine spill on our birds and wildlife are yet to be determined and will take years to uncover.

**Sign our petition today!**

**Take Action >**

Dear Gene,

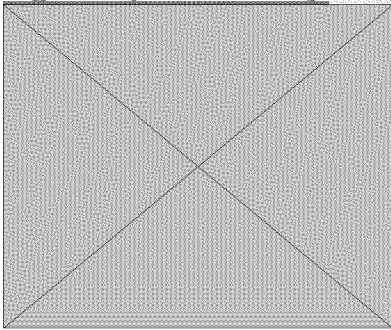
We at Audubon are deeply saddened and concerned about the recent spill of toxic material into the Animas River from the Gold King mine in Colorado. Although we understand that the EPA was attempting to do the right thing in cleaning up the wastewater from the mine when the release happened, the long-term impacts of this spill on our birds and wildlife are yet to be determined and will take years to uncover.

Sign our petition asking the EPA to commit to cleaning up and monitoring the long-term impacts of the toxic Gold King Mine spill.

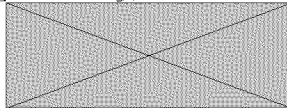
The Gold King Mine spill was a disaster waiting to happen. The spill illustrates a larger problem of numerous abandoned mines across much of the West that could leak toxic materials into rivers, streams, and the soil if left unattended. Through the Western Rivers Action Network, Audubon supports those that are working to come up with longer term solutions to the threats facing our rivers, wildlife, and communities.

We encourage all agencies involved in the aftermath of the spill to do what is necessary to protect our rivers and the wildlife and communities that depend on them. Please join us in calling on the EPA to commit immediate and long-term resources for remediation and monitoring of all the rivers affected by the mine spill and take all necessary steps to protect human health, our wildlife, and our environment.

Sign our petition today.



Sincerely,



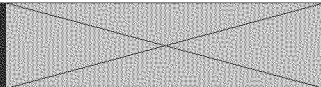
David Yarnold  
President & CEO, National Audubon Society

Trouble with the "Take Action" links in the message?  
Try copy-and-pasting this link into your web browser:  
[www.audubonaction.org/site/Advocacy?id=1979](http://www.audubonaction.org/site/Advocacy?id=1979)

**Share this alert**



Animas River photo: EPA



1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036  
[audubonaction@audubon.org](mailto:audubonaction@audubon.org)

[Change your contact information](#) | [Manage your communications](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

--

**Mark Williams**

**Fellow INSTAAR and Professor of Geography**

**University of Colorado**

**Boulder CO 80309**

**<http://snobear.colorado.edu/Markw/mark.html>**